(b) Mother Dairy Foods Ltd. has entered into Joint Venture Agreements with Kerala Cooperative Milk Federation Ltd., Trivandrum and Matha Milk Marketing Mutually Aided Cooperative Federation Ltd., Hyderabad so far.

Production and export of fruits and vegetables

1716. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, the Indian position in regard to export of these items;

(c) the steps proposed to boost India's export of vegetables and fruits; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables after China. We produced 45.37 million tonnes of fruits and 93.92 million tonnes of vegetables during 2000-01.

(b) India ranks 21st in the world export of fruits and vegetables.

(c) and (d) For encouraging export of horticultural products, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce is providing financial assistance to individuals/exporters for various activities like setting up Infrastructure Facilities, Packaging Development, Human Resource Development, Export Promotion, Market Development and Quality Control. Besides, APEDA with the involvement of the State Governments have initiated several programmes under Agri Export Zones (AEZ) for giving focused attention on area based programme for export promotion of horticultural products including fruits and vegetables.